



February 19, 2010

The Honorable Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

I write to ask your support for Hanover College's FY11 appropriations funding request to expand our environmental science research and education programs at Hanover College's Rivers Institute.

The Lilly Endowment funded the creation of the Rivers Institute at Hanover College with the goals of enhancing the College's profile and strengthening academic programs. In acting as a catalyst for these goals, the Rivers Institute serves as a conduit between Hanover College and the larger community; it brings representatives of industry, government, academia, and the non-profit sector together to promote public understanding of environmental and economic issues facing river systems using the Ohio River as its lab.

The Rivers Institute augments science education by integrating educational opportunities at all levels, from field trips for elementary students to summer camps for high school students through service opportunities for pre-service teachers and professional development for in-service teachers. Through its educational outreach and partnerships with institutions along the Ohio River, the Rivers Institute raises citizen awareness of commercial and environmental issues and provides traditional and outdoor learning facilities. Finally, the Rivers Institute continues to support the evolution of Hanover's 650-acre campus as a regional destination for environmental education, recreation, and cultural enrichment.

Federal assistance to expand the College's successful science research and education programs for students, surrounding school systems and teachers will help address regional and national river challenges, raise commercial and environmental river awareness, promote science education, and environmental and cultural understanding to help stimulate the local, regional, and state economy.

As Indiana's oldest private liberal arts college, and having never requested federal funding before, the Hanover College community would be grateful if you would support this worthy project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sue DeWine, President

Hanover College